

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KE, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S DEATH

1. WHITE HOUSE RELEASED FOLLOWING STATEMENT WITH RESPECT
TO DEATH OF PRESIDENT KENYATTA.

QUOTE: THE DEATH OF JOMO KENYATTA, THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, IS A VERY SAD OCCASION FOR THE
PEOPLE OF KENYA AND FOR THEIR FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD.
JOMO KENYATTA WAS A GIANT OF THE AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE
STRUGGLE, AND HE WAS A REVERED LEADER OF HIS COUNTRY.
UNDER HIS GUIDANCE, KENYA'S INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT WAS STEADY
AND ORDERLY; ITS CONDUCT IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SHOWED
A MATURE RESPONSIBILITY. PRESIDENT KENYATTA WAS DEDICATED
TO THE PRINCIPLES OF INDEPENDENCE, MAJORITY RULE, AND
PEACE AND EQUALITY AMONG NATIONS. HIS VOICE WILL BE
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MISSED IN THE COUNCILS OF AFRICA AND THE WORLD. UNQUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING Q AND A'S ALSO PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT PRESS
SPOKESMAN.

Q. WHO WILL REPRESENT THE US AT THE FUNERAL?

A. THAT HAS NOT AS YET BEEN DECIDED BY THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. WHAT IS THE SITUATION IN NAIROBI?

A. OUR EMBASSY REPORTS THAT THE SITUATION IS CALM.

Q. HOW WILL A NEW PRESIDENT BE NAMED?

A. THE KENYAN CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT, IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT SHALL ASSUME THE FUNCTION OF THE OFFICE AND THAT AN ELECTION SHALL BE HELD FOR A NEW PRESIDENT WITHIN 90 DAYS. THE PROVISIONS FOR SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS STIPULATE THAT EVERY CANDIDATE MUST BE NOMINATED BY A POLITICAL PARTY FROM AMONG THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND IF THERE IS ONLY ONE CANDIDATE, HE SHALL BE DECLARED ELECTED.

Q. HOW MANY POLITICAL PARTIES EXIST?

A. AT PRESENT ONLY ONE - THE KENYA AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION.

Q. WHO IS THE VICE PRESIDENT?

A. DANIEL T. ARAP MOI HAS BEEN VICE PRESIDENT SINCE 1967. THE VICE PRESIDENT WAS EDUCATED AT AMERICAN MISSION SCHOOLS AND WAS A TEACHER FROM 1945-54. HE WAS A MEMBER
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OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FROM 1957 TO 1963 AND AFTER INDEPENDENCE HE CONTINUED AS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT. HE HAS SERVED AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION (1961-62), AND MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (1962-64). IN ADDITION TO HIS DUTIES AS VICE PRESIDENT, HE ALSO IS MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS. HE, ALONG WITH OTHER SENIOR KENYAN LEADERS VISITED WASHINGTON IN EARLY MARCH THIS YEAR AND HELD TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY VANCE, DR. BRZEZINSKI AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS.
CHRISTOPHER

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